

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 12, 2017

Subject: Appointment of General Counsel

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. § 473.123, subd. 8; Council Bylaws art. IV.C.

Staff Prepared/Presented: Adam Duinick, Chair, 651-602-1390

Division/Department: Regional Administration

Proposed Action

Chair Duinick recommends the Metropolitan Council appoint Ann Bloodhart to the position of General Counsel.

Background

In February 2017 Don Mueting announced he would retire from his position of General Counsel. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 473.123, subdivision 8, and the *Bylaws of the Metropolitan Council*, the Council may appoint a General Counsel to serve at the pleasure of the Council as the Council's legal advisor and representative.

Following Mr. Mueting's announcement, the Council solicited applications for the vacant General Counsel position. Two rounds of interviews were conducted by panels. The panel conducting the final interview recommended Ms. Bloodhart's selection as the new General Counsel.

Rationale

The General Counsel is a senior management position within the Council's organizational structure and is responsible for managing the Council's legal matters and providing counsel and advice to the Council and its management. The General Counsel supervises the Council's Office of General Counsel as well as outside firms and attorneys that are hired to represent the Council on select matters.

Ms. Bloodhart has 23 years of legal experience. Before joining the Council in 2009, she practiced law in the Minnesota Attorney General's Office where she specialized in transportation issues and later managed the Charities Division.

Subject to the Council's approval of this recommended appointment, Ms. Bloodhart's first day as General Counsel will be July 29.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The hiring of a General Counsel and the work of the Office of General Counsel allow the Council to develop an in-house legal team with extensive knowledge of the Council and expertise on regional governance that makes them uniquely positioned to help the Council achieve the *Thrive MSP 2040* outcomes.

Funding

Funding for this position is included in the 2017 operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

Ms. Bloodhart's appointment is supported by the Chair and the interview panel.